

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-4 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claim 2 has been withdrawn.

In deference to the advise of the Examiner in item 1 on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 5 has been cancelled.

In item 3 on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1, 3, and 5 have been rejected as being anticipated by Serkh (US Pat. No. 6,379,275 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In item 5 on pages 3-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Hoffmann et al. (US Pat. No. 6,250,224 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejections have been noted and claims 1 and 4 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in the first paragraph on page 11 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 4 call for, inter alia:

said belt having a brake strand for braking the flat printing material.

None of the cited references discloses that the belt has a brake strand for braking the flat printing material.

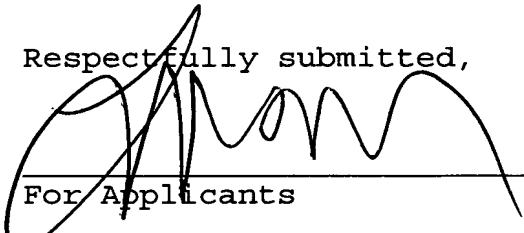
It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 and 4. Claims 1 and 4 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claim 3 is dependent on claim 1, it is believed to be patentable as well. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-4 are solicited. Allowance of non-elected claim 2 is requested upon allowance of generic claim 1.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

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